



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Region I – New England
5 Post Office Square, Suite 100
Boston, MA 02109-3912

Sent via FOIAonline

December 6, 2018

RE: Freedom of Information Act Request # EPA-R1-2019-000285

Dear Mr. Ruch:

This is an *interim* response to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request dated October 9, 2018, **pertaining to PFAS contamination.**

In accordance with your preference expressed on a call with EPA on October 15, 2018, EPA has prioritized sampling/investigation type documents for a first interim release. We have uploaded into FOIAonline 109 non-privileged documents responsive to your request, that fit under this description.

This is an interim response only. Additional information will be forthcoming. Upon providing you with a *final* response, to the extent there are any adverse determinations you may appeal such determinations at that time. Information on how to appeal any adverse determinations will be provided along with the final response letter.

EPA continues to search for and review additional documents that may be responsive to your request and to coordinate with other Agencies that may have an interest in the documents. As mentioned in EPA's November 30, 2018 communication to you, this request meets all 3 statutory bases for "unusual circumstances" (5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(6)(B)(iii)): it involves separate offices within EPA; it is voluminous (many thousands of potentially responsive documents); and it requires EPA to consult with another federal Agency (various offices within the Department of Defense (DOD)). We have initiated a preliminary search for potentially responsive Outlook emails. This effort indicates that EPA will likely have to review many thousands of documents to determine responsiveness and whether there is any exempt material therein. Therefore, EPA requires an extension of time to May 31, 2019, to complete its review and coordination concerning these documents. As it has done here, EPA will provide you with interim response(s) as practicable and appropriate prior to its final response.

We would like to again explore with you if there are any possibilities to narrow/reframe your request to make for more expeditious processing. In particular, we would like to explore ways to possibly avoid duplicative review by EPA and DOD, to whom we understand you have submitted an identical request. To discuss such possibilities, and to discuss your request generally, please contact Michael Knapp (617-918-1053, knapp.michael@epa.gov) or Cayleigh Eckhardt (617-918-1044, eckhardt.cayleigh@epa.gov) of the Office of Regional Counsel.

Additionally, you may seek assistance, including dispute resolution services, from EPA's FOIA Public Liaison at hq.foia@epa.gov or (202) 566-1667, or from the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS). You may contact OGIS in any of the following ways: by mail, Office of Government Information Services, National Archives and Records Administration, Room 2510, 8610 Adelphi Road, College Park, MD 20740-6001; e-mail, ogis@nara.gov; telephone, (202) 741-5770 or (877) 684-6448; or fax, (202) 741-5769.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Bryan Olson", with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Bryan Olson, Director
Office of Site Remediation & Restoration

cc: Cris Schena, R1 FOI Officer